



# Great Basin Wildlife Rescue

Rehabilitation & Education.

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*Great Basin Wildlife Rescue is a 501 c3 non-profit wildlife rehabilitation center located in Utah County. We take in over 200 bear cubs and birds of prey a year. Our mission is twofold. First, it is to rescue and rehabilitate wildlife so they can be released back into the wild. Second, it is to educate the public how they can make a difference in wildlife conservation and to expand their knowledge of wildlife in general. We travel within Utah County providing educational programs to local schools, Eagle Scout courts of honor, fairs, and expos. If you are interested in having us attend your school or event, please contact us at [greatbasinrehab@yahoo.com](mailto:greatbasinrehab@yahoo.com).*

## Three Easy Ways to Donate to Great Basin

Dear Great Basin Wildlife Rescue Supporters,

Happy holidays everyone! The holidays are a time for family, friends, and giving to others. We would like to take this time to thank you for your support over the last year. Did you know that Great Basin receives over 200 injured birds of prey per year? We are also the only organization in Utah licensed to rehabilitate black bear cubs. Further, we are completely staffed by volunteers. We could not have done it all without your help!

As the year draws to a close, please consider donating to Great Basin Wildlife Rescue. As a 501(c)3 non-profit charity, we are funded completely by donation. Also, your donation is completely tax-deductible. You can donate on our website at <http://greatbasinwildlife.net/Donate/Donate2.html> or you can contact Patti at (801)310-0186 for further ways to donate.

Another great way to support Great Basin is through your online purchases. As you shop for the holidays and other occasions, please consider using [igive.com](http://igive.com) and [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com). These online merchants donate a portion of your purchases to Great Basin. There are more details on this later on in this issue of our newsletter.

We wish you and your family the best during this holiday season and for the rest of the year!!



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online purchases with no additional cost to you! Through [www.igive.com](http://www.igive.com) you have instant access to about 1,500 participating stores who will donate a portion of your purchase to Great Basin! It is easy and free to register. All you need to do is go to [www.igive.com](http://www.igive.com) and follow the easy instructions. Once you register, you can choose Great Basin Wildlife Rehabilitation and Education as the charity you wish to benefit from your purchases. Each time you want to make an online purchase, you can logon to your favorite stores through [igive.com](http://igive.com) or download the iGive application to your phone or other device. Remember, there are no additional fees or costs to you for using iGive, but Great Basin will receive a donation each time you shop!!



Do you shop on Amazon.com? Now you can support Great Basin Wildlife Rescue through your purchases on Amazon! When you shop at [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) you'll find the same prices with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price from your AmazonSmile eligible items to Great Basin! You will see eligible products marked "Eligible for Amazon Smile donation" on the product detail page. You can use your regular Amazon account to make your purchases, no special account is needed. Just simply go to [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) from your web browser on your computer or mobile device. You will need to log in to your Amazon account. In the area where it says "Pick your own charitable organization," type in Great Basin Wildlife Rescue and click the "search" button. Select Great Basin Wildlife Rescue as the charitable organization that you wish to receive the donated funds. Once these steps are completed, at the top of the page to the right of the AmazonSmile logo, you will see something that says "Supporting: Great Basin Wildlife Rescue and Education Center Inc." Now you can go and make your normal Amazon purchases, knowing that your eligible items are benefiting Great Basin. You may even want to add a bookmark to AmazonSmile so that all of your future Amazon purchases can benefit Great Basin. Supporting Great Basin has never been so easy!

## Home for the Holidays: Why Some Birds Stay the Winter

You might wonder why some birds stay for winter, while others migrate. The main thing that determines whether a species of bird will migrate for the winter is food availability. Birds that can't eat their normal diet in the winter, like nectar or certain kinds of insects, will fly to warmer places where they can find



Mallard duck, *Anas platyrhynchos*

enough food to eat. But birds that have year-round food sources in their habitat don't need to migrate. It might be harder for them to find food in winter, but they usually can still find enough to survive.

Small birds that stay for the winter often eat berries, grain, nuts, and seeds, as well as any hibernating insects, eggs, or larva that they can find. Many of them are nomadic and move on to a new location when they've eaten everything they can find in their current spot. Some small birds hide caches of food during late summer and autumn and then return to those stores in the winter. Small birds also sometimes form flocks in the winter to help increase their chances of finding food, since an increased number of individuals looking for food sources means an increased chance of finding something to eat. And if the smaller birds stick around, that means the birds of prey who hunt them also have a source of food.

## Answers from Connery

### Why don't birds sing in the winter?

If you've ever gone on a nature walk during the winter, you've probably noticed that the songbirds are a lot quieter than in the spring. While you might hear some bird sounds in the winter, it's nothing like the full-out singing you can hear during the warmer months. The reason for the birds' relative silence in the winter all comes down to the reason they sing in the first place. Male birds usually sing to attract a mate or to announce where their breeding-season territory is. Since songbirds don't breed during the winter, they don't need to sing their elaborate mating season songs.



Connery the northern saw-whet owl.



House finch, *Carpodacus mexicanus*

But just because you might not hear the birds in the winter, it doesn't mean they're not there. Some birds that are common in Utah in the winter include certain species of quail, killdeer, pigeons, doves, woodpeckers, jays, chickadees, nuthatches, wrens, starlings, sparrows, blackbirds, and finches. Also common in winter are some kinds of geese and ducks, as well as great blue herons, red-tailed hawks, great horned owls, American kestrels, and ravens.

**Picture Credits**

p.2. Mallard duck, *Anas platyrhynchos*, [http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Anas\\_platyrhynchos\\_-\\_Kadriog\\_Tallinn\\_Harju\\_County\\_Estonia\\_-\\_male-8.jpg](http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Anas_platyrhynchos_-_Kadriog_Tallinn_Harju_County_Estonia_-_male-8.jpg), Wikipedia Commons.

p.3 top: Connery, northern saw-whet owl, Great Basin Wildlife Rescue, bottom: House finch, *Carpodacus mexicanus*, [http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Bird\\_in\\_Snow.jpg](http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Bird_in_Snow.jpg), Wikipedia Commons.